

Introductory Remarks
Session X. The Resources: Are There Enough?

Brigadier General Roger C. Smith, USAF (Ret.)
Session Chair

We have kept the most difficult issues for last. Earlier in the Symposium we discussed the changing nature of the threat and the planned responses outlined in Presidential Decision Directives 62 and 63. We have also heard in some detail about the findings of the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection, which explored the growing vulnerability of the nation's infrastructure. The Joint Chiefs, responding to the terrorist action at Khobar Towers, have established a new directorate for Combating Terrorism, J-34, and we had the opportunity to hear Brigadier General Conway discuss the new emphasis on force protection and counterterrorism initiatives.

But to the average American, the United States is at peace in the world. Another military action against Iraq has been avoided. U.S. forces are deployed overseas, but the focus is on peacekeeping and humanitarian actions. At home, the average American sees a period of relative prosperity; there are projections of a five-year federal budget surplus, and continued reductions in the Department of Defense budget.

These economic and social trends seem to be inconsistent with much of what we have discussed over the past two days. Many Americans seem unconcerned about the growing vulnerability of elements of our national and economic security. A rising threat of terrorism at home and abroad receives little attention as the Khobar Towers, Oklahoma City and World Trade Center events fade into memory. Many Americans would be reluctant to accept additional security and protection measures in their daily lives unless and until they directly experience an untoward event.

This final session will address these inconsistencies and other questions basic to the resources issue. Given the current economic and social environment, will there be adequate federal government funding and resources to provide the levels of protection and security required to preserve our economic, military and national security? How do these needs stack up with other national priorities, and are they holding their own in the national debate? Are policy makers sufficiently concerned to make the difficult budget decisions?

Our guest speakers this morning need little introduction. We are very fortunate to have them share with us their valuable perspectives on these issues.

Tim Sample is the Deputy Staff Director of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, U.S. House of Representatives.

Peggy Evans is the Chief, Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.

Closing Remarks

Brigadier General Roger C. Smith, USAF (Ret.)
Chairman, Security Division

This concludes our 14th annual Security Symposium. I hope that we have provided some fresh insights into the new dimensions of security, both in terms of emerging threats and promising countermeasures.

We have sought to explore how security technology fits into the overall picture of broader security concerns. We have offered some new perspectives on the interdependency of all the elements of security in dealing with a more challenging, diverse domestic and international environment.

We have addressed the role of security forces and technical capabilities as key weapons in preventing, detecting, responding to, mitigating, and recovering from both conventional and unconventional physical and cyber attacks.

A major question we face now is how to implement the findings of this symposium. A year from now, we should ask ourselves what actions have been taken to integrate changing security and protection principles and new technologies into the overall security equation.

We look forward to having you attend the 15th Annual Security Symposium, on 14-17 June of next year, in beautiful Norfolk, Virginia. Thank you for attending. Have a safe trip home and a productive year.